GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:876
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2015
Bilateral Trade Agreements
Reddy Shri Ch. Malla

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments including Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu have made bilateral trade agreements with some foreign countries with a view to develop the textile industry in their States;

(b) if so, the likely impact on the textile industry of the country due to such agreements;

(c) whether Pakistan enjoyed a duty free status for its textile exports to the European Union, a luxury that was not available to India;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether in order to improve textile industry in India, will the Government pay attention to India-Bangla agreement [South Asia Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA)] India-Latin America, India-EU and India- Russia agreements; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES
(SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a): No such bilateral trade agreement with foreign countries in textile industry has been entered into by the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

(b): Does not arise.

(c) & (d): Yes. Pakistan enjoys Generalized Standard Preference(GSP)+ status with European Union.

(e) & (f): Yes. Various sectors including textiles are taken into consideration by the government during Tariff Liberalization Programme (TLP) negotiations under SAFTA. The Government is presently negotiating a bilateral Broad Based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) with European Union (EU) covering a number of track ranging from Trade in Goods to services including textiles. India has Preferential Trade Agreements (PTA) with MERCOSUR(Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela) and Chile for limited number of items. In order to enhance India's competitiveness in Textiles sector in LAC region, India is expanding its existing PTA with Chile wherein Chile has offered Margin of Preference (MoP) ranging from 30% to 100% on tariff lines under the chapters on Textiles. The process for expansion of India- MERCOSUR has also been initiated. Further, at present, there is no FTA between India and Russia.

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